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PATENT  
450114-4503

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Kanji MIHARA et al.  
U.S. Serial No.: Filed Concurrently Herewith  
Continuation of  
International Appln. No.: PCT/JP98/02967  
International Filing Date: 1 July 1998  
Priority Date Claimed: 1 July 1997  
Title of Invention: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING  
IMAGE ENCODING, ENCODING SYSTEM,  
TRANSMISSION SYSTEM AND BROADCAST  
SYSTEM

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application (35 U.S.C. 111)  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before the issuance of the first Office Action, please  
amend the above-identified application as follows: